

said advancing device comprising an advancing piston rod and an advancing piston actuating said advancing piston rod;

said advancing piston rod acting on said blade holding member for moving the circular blade between a cutting position and a ready position;

said advancing piston pneumatically actuated and mounted and guided in said chamber;

a pressure spring acting on said advancing piston rod to [prestress] press said advancing piston rod into the ready position of the circular blade;

a pressing device loading said pressure spring in a direction of the cutting position of the circular blade;

said pressing device decoupled from said advancing piston rod.

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#### REMARKS

The present amendment is made in response to the Office Action having a mailing date of March 28, 2000, which set a shortened three-month period for response, making this response due by June 28, 2000.

As a result of a final restriction requirement imposed by the Examiner, only claims 18-21 are pending in the application. The Examiner has indicated, however, in the outstanding Office Action that if claim 18 is found to be patentable, rejoinder of the claims dependent therefrom will be considered.

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to for several informalities. Attached herewith are corrected Figures 1 and 2, with changes indicated in red ink,

which Applicant believes overcome these objections. More specifically, Figure 1 has been amended to include reference numeral 27a to indicate the portion of the piston in the space between 27 and 24. The specification has likewise been amended on page 9, at lines 6 and 9, to more clearly describe the preferred configuration on the pneumatic drive 27, as shown in Figure 1, with reference to 27a. Because these structures have already been disclosed in Figure 1, this amendment to the specification does not comprise new matter.

With regard to the objection to Figure 2, Figure 2 has been amended to correctly indicate pneumatic connector 28, which had been incorrectly labeled as pneumatic drive 27. In the embodiment shown in Figure 2, the pneumatic drive for the piston 35 is designed so that via the pneumatic connector 28, the compressed air is introduced between the partition wall 37 and the piston 35, thereby causing the movement of the piston 35. In this regard, the specification was necessarily amended on page 12, at lines 8 and 9, to more clearly and correctly describe the function of the pneumatic connector 28 and its action upon the piston 35. Again, because Figure 2 already disclosed this element, but was merely mislabeled, this amendment to the specification does not comprise new matter.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the drawings, and corresponding portions of the specification, as amended more clearly reflect and describe the claimed invention, and respectfully requests that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

The specification was objected to for several informalities under 35 U.S.C. 112,

which have been corrected as indicated above. However, with regard to the Examiner's objection to the specification in Paragraph 7 of the Office Action for lack of clear support in the specification for certain claim language, the Applicant respectfully disagrees with these objections. Specifically, the objected-to term "advancing device" as set forth in claim 1, line 7, is disclosed and discussed in the specification on page 4, lines 16-19. The objected to term "advancing piston", as set forth in claim 1, line 10, is disclosed and discussed in the specification on page 5, line 5 through page 6, line 2. (See specifically, page 5, line 15). The objected to term "pressing device" as set forth in claim 1, line 19, is discussed in the specification on page 3, line 21 through page 4, line 2.

In light of the above corrections to the specification, and because the objected-to terms can indeed be found in the specification, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the specification under Section 112 be removed.

Claims 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. As shown above, claim 18 has been amended to change "at" to -- to -- in line 3. Claim 18 now also positively claims the circular blade as retained within the blade holding member. A typographical error in claim 18, line 17, has also been corrected.

With regard to the rejection of claim 18 for the "vague and indefinite" terms "an advancing device", "an advancing piston", and "a pressing device", Applicant submits that he has addressed these bases for rejection above by directing the Examiner's attention to the pertinent portions of the specification which disclose and discuss these

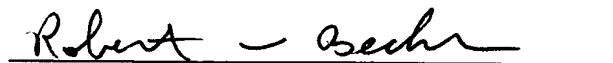
terms.

With regard to the rejection of claim 19 for vagueness and indefiniteness under Section 112 because the invention "is being defined in terms of the circular blade" which was not positively claimed, as discussed above, claim 18 has been amended to positively claim the circular blade. As such, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 19 under Section 112 be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks in support of patentability, Applicant respectfully submits that this application now stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved prior to the allowance of this case, please contact the undersigned attorney for applicant at the telephone number below.

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application now stands in condition for allowance, and action to this end is courteously solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved prior to the allowance of this case, the undersigned would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully Submitted,



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for applicant(s)

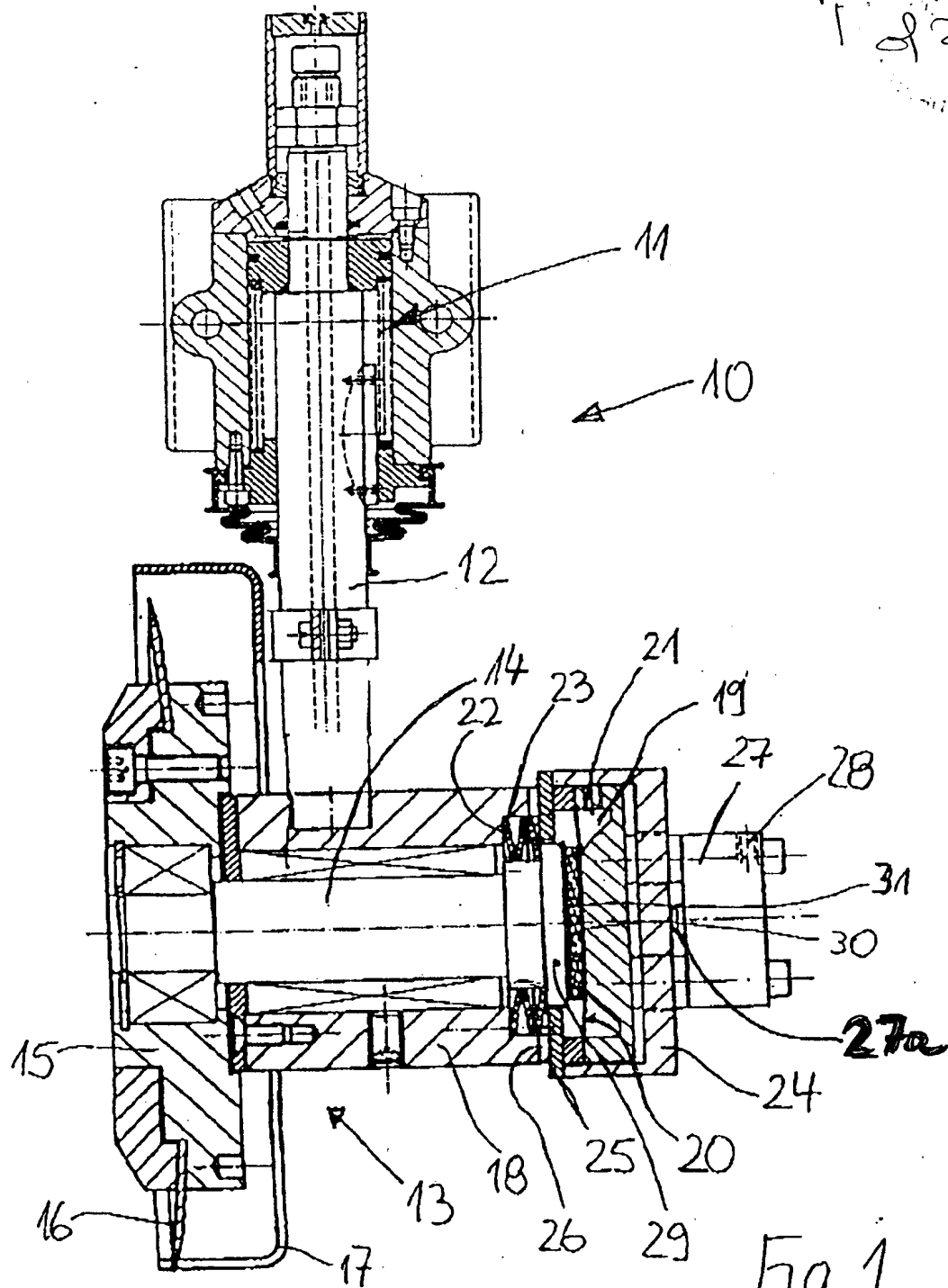
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1 of 2



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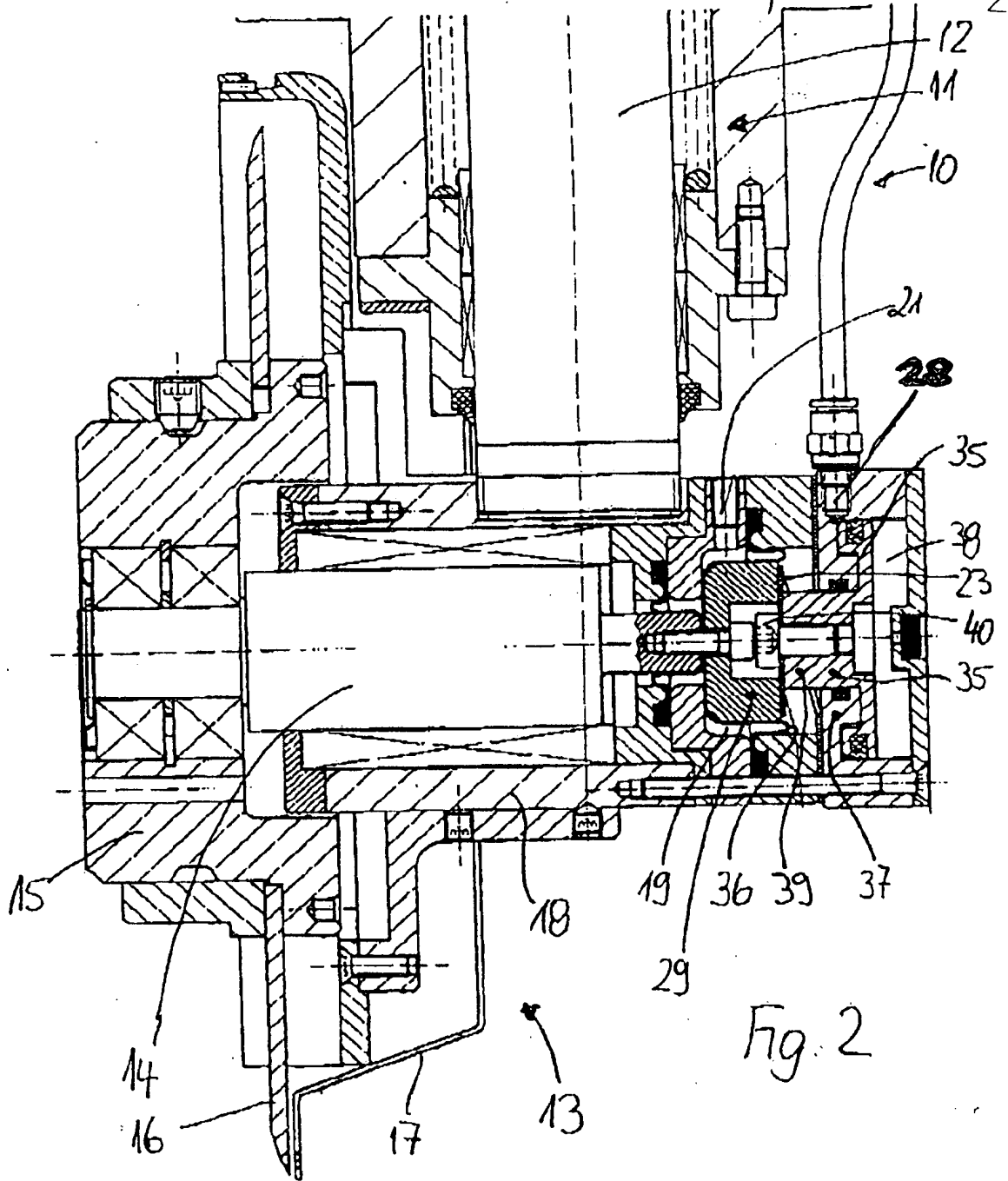


Fig. 2

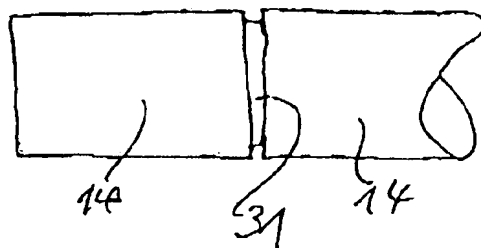


Fig. 3

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